

How to Launch a Core Discipleship Group

1. Pray

Jesus prayed before selecting His disciples. Take a few weeks and prayerfully consider 2 or 3 others who have your heart and a heart for evangelism/discipleship. Only then go to the next step.

2. Invite

Personally approach each person in the following way: “The Lord has placed you on my heart. Would you be willing to join me and two others on a weekly basis so that we can become better disciples of Jesus?”

3. Communicate

If you are using resources from Core Discipleship, give them a brief overview of the process and how the material will be used.

4. Expectations

People need a clear sense of what is expected of them. Walk through the **Core Discipleship agreement** line-by-line. Mention that your Core Group will be meeting weekly for an initial period of 6-9 weeks at which time the group will evaluate, and if in agreement, will continue for a total time together of a year.

5. Count The Cost

Ask each disciple to prayerfully consider the invitation. Specifically, ask them to not respond immediately, but to really examine whether they have the time and the heart for the journey. Let them know that others will be a part of the process, too.

6. Time & Place

Set the first regular time together and get started. Quiet places are best to develop transparency and intimacy. At the first gathering, ask each person why he or she decided to commit to the Core Discipleship Group.

7. Guide & Facilitate

Take your time and move at a comfortable pace. Encourage questions. Address personal matters. Life will happen while you are together. The Core resources are only tools, not something to check off your “to-do-list”. Remember, discipling cannot be forced through a curriculum. Discipling relationships require an individualized approach that takes into account the unique growth of those involved. The goal is Christ-likeness, not to complete the curriculum. It’s all about loving God and each other.

8. Keys For Growth

The group will only go as deep as your willingness to be vulnerable, honest, and transparent. Intimacy, accountability and transparency are paramount.

9. Multiplication

The commitment to disciple others is in the **Core Discipleship agreement** and should remain the focus. Each Core Group member should be allowed to lead the process. They will learn by hearing, seeing and doing.